



Hugh C. McBride

Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program volunteers patrol Patch Barracks in this file photo from early 2003. After a five-month hiatus, SNAP has returned to Stuttgart with a new director and a re-energized focus on neighborhood safety.

Stuttgart SNAPs back

New coordinator set to re-energize area's Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program

By Melanie Casey

SNAP is back.

The Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program has returned to the 6th Area Support Group after a five-month hiatus.

Earnest Epps, who previously served as an operation assistant at the 6th ASG Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, became the new SNAP area coordinator Jan. 26.

Epps took on the new job because it was a "challenge, a way to deal with today's terrorist threat and get people involved with their neighbors," he said.

The new SNAP program falls under the installation support manager's office and 6th ASG command group.

SNAP is a volunteer-fueled effort that augments on-post force protection. It is modeled on the "Neighborhood Watch" programs popular in the States.

The program started in U.S. Army, Europe, in May 2002 (in response to the events of Sept. 11, 2001) under the direction of Gen. Montgomery Meigs, USAREUR's commander at the time, Epps said.

SNAP volunteers serve as the "eyes and ears" of the neighborhood. As they patrol an area, they keep a log not only of suspicious activities (which they report to the military police) but also burned out light bulbs, overflowing dumpsters and unsafe playground equipment.

"It's about safety and security," Epps said. SNAP volunteers do not intervene or take unnecessary risks.

Any U.S. identification cardholder over the age of 18 is eligible to become a SNAP volunteer. Once volunteers have completed a training session that covers issues ranging from



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from anti-terrorism to crime prevention, they can don a reflective vest, grab a flashlight, phone, pen and paper and begin making the rounds as part of a two-person observational team.

"Who would know their neighborhood better than someone who lives there?" Epps said.

SNAP volunteers, "will be a cornerstone of the community force protection program," said Ty Stearn, 6th ASG installation support manager. "Their teamwork and team building in reporting findings and observations is critical."

As an incentive, volunteers who log 150 hours or more can receive an AAFES coupon booklet and Directorate of Community Activities certificate; those who log 250 hours or more are eligible for a free USO tour or a weekend at the Armed Forces Recreation Center's Garmisch resort.

SNAP hours are flexible and can be accomplished on "a daily walk or while walking your dog," Epps added.

The goal of the program is to increase force protection and crime prevention and disseminate force protection information to the community.

"Hopefully," Epps said, "it will strengthen the community bond as a whole."

For more information, or to volunteer with the SNAP program, call Epps at 421-4615/civ. 0711-729-4615 or e-mail epps@6asg.army.mil.

National Prayer Breakfast on Patch

Feb. 18, 7 to 8:30 a.m.

Swabian Special Events Center

Guest Speaker: IMA-E Chaplain (Col.) Ronald Strong

Tickets are free, but attendees are asked to make a \$5 donation to benefit "Operation Helping Hand" at Landstuhl Army Medical Center. For details call 430-5000/civ. 0711-680-5000.

News & Notes

APOs announce new hours

Customer service hours in Stuttgart-area Army Post Offices have changed. The new hours are as follows:

- Patch Barracks – Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Kelley Barracks – Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursdays, noon to 4 p.m.
- Panzer Kaserne – Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, noon to 4 p.m.
- Robinson Barracks – Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information call 421-4286/civ. 0711-729-4286.

Next Townhall meeting on Kelley

Stuttgart's next Townhall meeting is Feb. 25, 7 p.m., in the Kelley Barracks Community Club. All community members are invited to attend.

CYS offers parents a night out

Parents can get a break when Child and Youth Services offers to watch the children Feb. 13, 6:30 to 11 p.m.

This special night is open to all children who are registered with CYS. The cost is \$12.50 per child. For details and reservations call 430-7480/civ. 0711-680-7480.

Players, coaches needed

It's time to register children to participate in this year's Youth Services baseball and softball programs. Registration runs until March 12 for ages 3 and up. The cost is \$30 per player and participants must be centrally registered. Parents can register their children from 1 to 5 p.m. at any Stuttgart-area Youth Services facility.

Also, the YS Sports Office is looking for volunteer coaches for the upcoming seasons. Coaches receive registration discounts for their children.

For more information call 431-2616/civ. 07031-15-616.

SCSC scholarships available

The Stuttgart Community Spouses Club is offering scholarships for graduating seniors.

Applications are available in the PHS guidance office. Submission deadline is Feb. 27. For more information call Joni at 0711-489-4810 or e-mail jbjen110@aol.com.

Silent auction coming to RB

The second annual Robinson Barracks Parent Teacher Student Association Silent Auction is Feb. 12, 7 p.m., in the RB Community Club. This event is for adults only.

Vet clinic to vaccinate on RB

The Stuttgart Veterinary Treatment Facility is holding a vaccination clinic Feb. 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Robinson Barracks Entertainment Center (building 168).

For details call 431-2681/civ. 07031-15-681.

Girl Scout to donate locks for love

Hannah Rosenwald of Junior Girl Scout Troop 012 is sponsoring a Feb. 28 event to donate hair to Locks of Love (an organization in the United States) and Cancer Help (in the United Kingdom).

To donate hair to the U.S.-based organization, individuals must be able to cut at least ten inches; for the UK organization, the minimum length is six inches.

For details e-mail rosenwaldfamily@t-online.de.

USAFE MSS changes name

The United States Air Forces in Europe Mission Support Squadron is now known as the European Mission Support Squadron.

The change better reflects the unique mission the MSS has to service units from many different commands and agencies throughout Europe.

The name change came as the MSS was realigned from the USAFE Directorate of Personnel to the new 435th Mission Support Group of the 435th Air Base Wing in Ramstein.

Both the name change and the realignment have primarily internal implications.

The European MSS will continue to provide the same high level of service it is known for providing.